AN ACCOUNT

Of the Late Dreadful (8)

FIRE AT NORTHAMPTON.

With the Manner how it began, the time it lasted, and the Lamentable destruction it made: as Followeth.

1. *St. Mary-Street.*
2. *The Horse-Market.*
3. *Kings-head-Lane.*
4. *Gold-Street.*
5. *Wool-monger-street.*
6. *Kings-well-Street.*
7. *Bridge-Street.*
8. *Cobs-Lane.*
9. *Crosby-Lane.*
10. *Cow-lane.*
11. *Rotten-Row.*
12. *St. Gyle's-Street.*
13. *Farm-Lane.*
14. *Abbington-Street.*
15. *Cock-Lane.*
16. *Ditus-Lane.*
17. *New-Lane.*
18. *Ship-Street.*
19. *The Drapery.*
20. *Shoo-maker-Row.*
21. *The Butchers-shops* called, *The Guts.*
22. *Mercers-Row.*
23. *Market-Hill.*
24. *The Church of* All-hollows *burnt, and Bells Melted.*

saint

Printed for *Phillip Brooksby* in *West-Smith's-field*, neer the *Hospital-gate*. *September* 1675

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September 1675

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An Account of the late dreadful FIRE AT Northampton. &c.

THe lamentable and dreadful Fire at *Northampton*, cannot e're this, but be noised all over *England*; but the Pamphlets and Narratives that have been hitherto published of this Tragical subject are so unfaithful, or at best imperfect, that I thought my self oblieg'd to undeceive and satisfie the world with this short and true accompt therefore.

It began on *Munday* the 20*th*. of *September*, 1675. about Noon, at a poor Womans house near Castle-hill, on this manner. The Woman fetching a whisp of Straw to kindle her fire, and going in a Doors with the straw lighted, the sudden violence of the wind blew it out of her hand, and seizing the roof of her Cottage, that had no Chamber over head, blew it immediately into a flame, insomuch, that within half

an hours time the fire had diffused it self above a mile from the place where it first begun, and in five hours space above three parts in four of that most spacious and beautiful Town reduced to ashes; five inhabitants likewise were swallowed up in its suddain and merciless flames; *viz.* one man, one Woman, and three children, besides many Cattle, Horses, Cows, Swine, &c.

The names of the principal places, streets, and Lanes that were burn'd are as followeth: *St. Mary-street*, the *Horse-Market*, *Kings-head-Lane*, *Gold-street*, *Wool-Monger-street*, *Kings-well-street*, part of *Bridge-street*, *Cobs-lane*, *Crosby-Lane*, *Cow-lane*, *Rotten-Row*, *St. Gyles's-street*, *Farm-Lane*, *Abbington-street*, *Cock-Lane*, *Ditus-Lane*, *New-Lane*, *Ship-street*, the Drapery, called, *The Womans-Market*, *Shoo-makers-Row*, the Butchers shops, called, *The guts*, the *Market-hill* and *Cross*, *Mercers-Row*; most of these streets and Lanes are burned down to the ground, only in some of them here and there a house standing, & as for the Churches, though there were four in the Town, yet three of them were placed so in the out-skirts of it that they all escaped those sacrilegious flames; onely the largest and most beautiful of them, *viz*, that of *All-hallows*, standing in the heart of the Town was utterly demolished, not only the leads, but the very bells melting with the fervency of the heat. The loss in general has been computed by very knowing persons, and adjudged to amount to above eight hundred Thousand pound.

St Johnchurch
St Gyles
St Peters

1040 now called All saints since Dunstanes

This

This short and faithful relation is able to give satisfaction to all that knew that antient and famous Corporation, upon which onely account I published this Narrative. As for those that enquire after such calamitous accidents, meerly because they are new, I regard them not, for my design herein, is rather to incite men to charity, than gratifie them in their curiosity; and I intend not so much the satisfaction of those that are not concern'd, as the consolation of those that were any way sufferers in that dreadful fire, to peruse the following pages: to which end I intreat them that were made publick meerly for their sakes; and as for those that are onely fellow sufferers with them; as Christians, and particularly of the same Nation; it will well become such to have charitable thoughts of them, and towards them, not to condemn them because they are punished, but as time and ability shall serve to receive and assist them according unto their powers.

And for the use that all in general may make of this sad Judgement, it will be this; namely, That we turn to the Lord in time, and by a holy complyance with his commands and obedience to his will to divert the wrath of God, who to the incorrigible and disobedient is like to prove a consuming fire, and will at last assuredly cast them into everlasting burnings.

For if the sight of the Dreadful flames did amaze the beholders, how may it put us in mind of the saying of the Apostle *Peter*, in the 10*th*. verse of the third Chapter, and the second Epistle: But the day of the Lord will come as a Thief in the night, in the which the

the heavens ſhall paſs away with a great noiſe, and the Element ſhall melt with fervent heat, the earth alſo and the works that are therein ſhall be burned up. Seeing then that all theſe things ſhall be diſſolved, what manner of perſons ought ye to be, in all Holy converſation and godlineſs, looking for and haſting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the Heavens being on fire ſhall be diſſolved, and the Element ſhall melt with fervent heat; nevertheleſs, we according to his promiſe look for a new Heaven and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteouſneſs, for here we have no continuing City, therefore look for one to come; to ſet our affections on things below, we ſee how ſuddenly the Lord can ſweep them away; it will be wiſdom to hearken to that ſaying in Scripture. Lay up for your ſelves treaſure in heaven, where neither moth nor ruſt can corrupt, nor thieves break through to ſteal, for where your treaſure is there will your hearts be alſo, and for an expedient and counſel to thoſe that have ſuffered this great loſs by Fire, let them conſider theſe rules following, as the beſt and ſureſt way to get Riches in this world, and lay up treaſure in heaven.

Firſt, let your firſt and principle care be to get heaven and the grace of God that may make you meet to enjoy his Kingdom, and when you do this God will not only give you Heaven when you Dye, but will add alſo as much of this World as he ſeeth to be good for you, *Matthew* 6. 33. Seek you firſt the King-

Kingdom of God and his righteouſneſs, and all theſe things ſhall be given unto you.

Secondly, Imbrace by Faith, and ſettle your Love upon Jeſus Chriſt, he promiſeth to fill there treaſures that love him, *Prov.* 9. 20. 21.

Thirdly, Repent of your ſins and turn to the Lord then, though you be brought low he will build you up again, *Job* 22. 23, 24, 25. If thou return to the Almighty thou ſhalt be built up, thou ſhalt put away iniquity far from thy Tabernacles, then ſhalt thou lay up gold as duſt, and the Gold of Opher as the ſtones of the Brooks, the Almighty ſhall be thy defence and thou ſhalt have plenty of ſilver.

Fourthly, Walk in the fear of God, and be careful to keep his commandements, *Proverbs* 22. 4. By humility and the fear of the Lord are riches, and honor, and life.

Fifthly, Follow your imployments with diligence, there is a bleſſing of God goeth along with dilligence and induſtry in your calings, but the hand of the dilligent maketh rich.

Sixthly, ſeek after Knowledge, and manage all your affairs with Wiſdom and diſcretion, *Prov.* 24. 3 4. Though wiſdom is an Houſe builded, and by underſtanding it is eſtabliſhed, by knowledge ſhall the Chamber be filled with all precious and pleaſant riches.

Seventhly, Be faithful and upright in all your dealings, for the upright ſhall have good things in poſſeſſion, the faithful Man ſhall abound in Bleſsings, *Pſalm.*

Psalm 112. 3, 4. Wealth and riches shall be in his House, unto the upright ariseth light and darkness.

Fifthly, Shun those vices that bring men to poverty, and hinder their thriving in the world, such as prodigality and love of pleasure. He that loveth pleasure shall be a poor man, he that loveth wine and oyl shall not be rich.

Ninthly, be liberal to the poor, there may be a liberal soul where there is but a small estate, and the more liberal any man is the more likely he is to be a Rich man.

Tenthly, and Lastly, Be content with what God giveth you, and then though you have never so little you are a Rich Man, th. first of *Timothy*, the *6th.* Chapter, and 6 and 7 Verses. *But godliness with contentment is great gain, for we brought nothing into this world; and it is certain we can carry nothing out.*

FINIS.